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Understanding shared socio-cultural values in relation to planning the Marine Environment.

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ABSTRACTS

Understanding shared socio-cultural values in relation to planning the Marine Environment

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Public policy is understood to reflect shared values, but these values are complex to identify and difficult to incorporate into valuation systems commonly used in environmental planning and management. The establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the protective policies that direct their management aim to achieve public benefits, but the ability of these policies to reflect the values of all stakeholders has been questioned. In a research project established under the UK NERC Valuing Nature Network (VNN) existing data was used to test the hypothesis that integrated modelling of economic values and socio-cultural values, with ecosystem characteristics can help identify a focus for new policies to achieve marine health and sustainability and public benefits. A Bayesian Belief Network (BBN) analytical method was used to manipulate data in an MPA context. The aim was to provide a framework by which to model components based on the identification of key values of different disciplinary sciences in relation to marine policy analysis which would allow the construction of scenarios to provide an assessment of policy impacts. This paper reflects on the issue of shared values which emerged within the research process as one that is poorly understood within environmental planning such as MPAs.